

## II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof



(I)

wherein:

M-T is the residue of 4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]benzenesulfonamide, wherein T = ~~-SO<sub>2</sub>NH-, -SO<sub>2</sub>NR-, CO-, O-, S-, NH-, N(SO<sub>2</sub>R)-, R being an alkyl with 1-10 carbon atoms, and~~

Y<sub>A</sub> = -(B)<sub>b0</sub>-(T<sub>C</sub>-Y)<sub>c0</sub>- wherein:

b<sub>0</sub> and c<sub>0</sub> are the integers 1 or 0, with the proviso that b<sub>0</sub> and c<sub>0</sub> cannot be simultaneously 0,

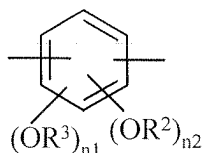
B = -T<sub>B</sub>-X<sub>2</sub>-T<sub>B</sub>-, in which:

T<sub>B</sub> = CO or X, wherein X = O, S, NH, NR, and R is as defined above, T<sub>B</sub> is CO when T is ~~SO<sub>2</sub>NH-, SO<sub>2</sub>NR-, O-, S-, NH-, or N(SO<sub>2</sub>R)-~~; and T<sub>B</sub> is X when T is ~~CO-~~;

T<sub>B</sub> = CO or X, in which X is ~~as defined above~~ O, S, NH, or NR, wherein R is an alkyl with 1-10 carbon atoms;

X<sub>2</sub> is a divalent radical and is selected from the following compounds:

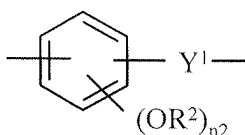
a)



wherein:

n<sub>1</sub> and n<sub>2</sub> are integers 0 or 1; R<sup>2</sup> and R<sup>3</sup> are independently selected from H or CH<sub>3</sub>;

b)

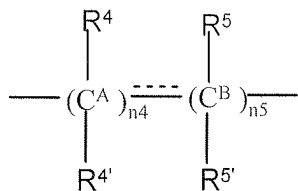


wherein:

n<sub>2</sub> and R<sup>2</sup> are as above defined;

Y<sup>1</sup> is -CH<sub>2</sub>-CH<sub>2</sub>- or -CH=CH-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n2'</sub>- wherein n<sub>2</sub>' is an integer 0 or 1;

c)



wherein:

n4 is an integer from 1 to 20 and n5 is an integer from 0 to 20; R<sup>4</sup>, R<sup>4'</sup>, R<sup>5</sup> and R<sup>5'</sup> are independently selected from the group consisting of H, CH<sub>3</sub>, OH, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHCOCH<sub>3</sub>, and COOH; when the bond between the C<sup>A</sup> and C<sup>B</sup> carbons is a double bond, then R<sup>4</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> or R<sup>4'</sup> and R<sup>5'</sup> are absent;

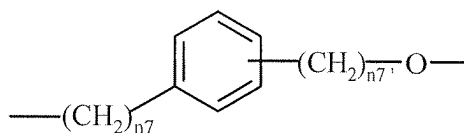
T<sub>C</sub> = CO, X wherein X is as defined above, or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n6</sub>OC(O)- wherein n6 is an integer from 1 to 20;

Y is a bivalent radical having the following meanings:

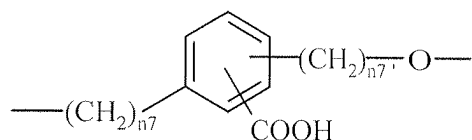
d) -R<sup>1</sup>O-, in which R<sup>1</sup> is:

- straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>20</sub>-alkylene optionally containing one or more heteroatoms selected from oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur, or one or more groups -O(CO)-, -NH(CO)-, -S(CO)-, optionally substituted with one or more of the following groups -OH, -SH, -NH<sub>2</sub>, -NHCOR<sup>6</sup>, in which R<sup>6</sup> is straight or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-alkyl;
- cycloalkylene containing from 5 to 7 carbon atoms into cycloalkylene ring, wherein one or more carbon atoms can be replaced by heteroatoms selected from nitrogen, oxygen or sulphur, and the ring can be substituted with side chains R<sup>6</sup>, R<sup>6</sup> being as defined above;

e)

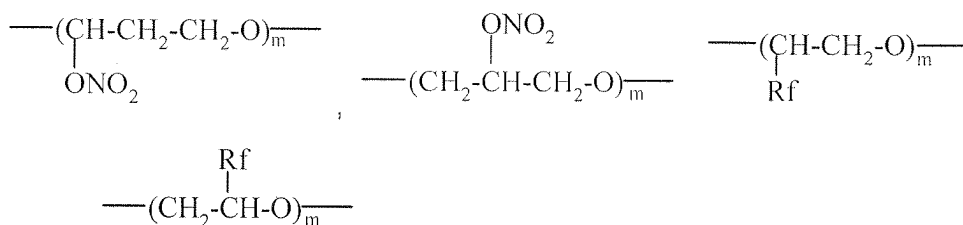


f)



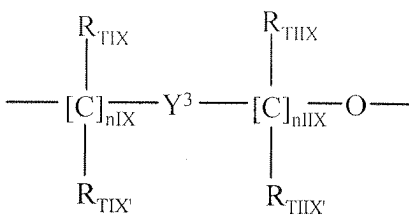
wherein  $n7$  is an integer from 0 to 20, and  $n7'$  is an integer from 1 to 20;

g)



wherein  $m$  is an integer from 1 to 6,  $\text{Rf}$  is a hydrogen atom or  $\text{CH}_3$ ;

h)



(IA)

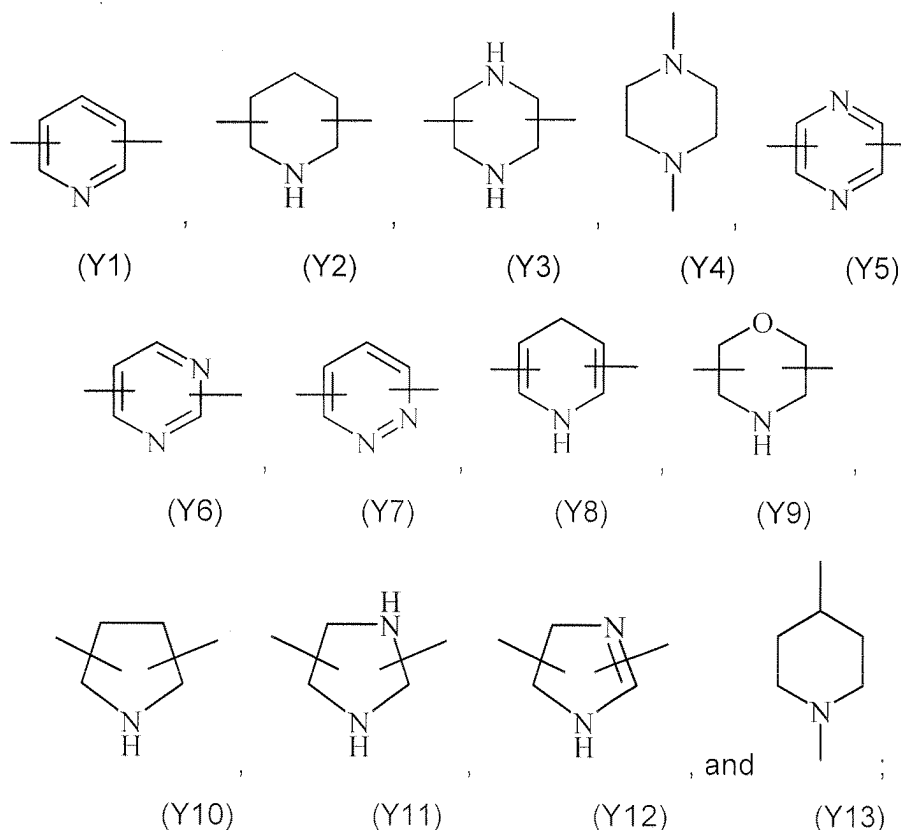
wherein:

$n\text{IX}$  is an integer from 0 to 10;

$n\text{IIX}$  is an integer from 1 to 10;

$\text{R}_{\text{TIX}}$ ,  $\text{R}_{\text{TIX}'}$ ,  $\text{R}_{\text{TIIIX}}$ ,  $\text{R}_{\text{TIIIX}'}$ , are the same or different, and are H or straight or branched  $\text{C}_1\text{--C}_4\text{--alkyl}$ ;

$\text{Y}^3$  is selected from the group consisting of:



with the proviso that:

when  $b_0 = 0$ , and  $c_0 = 1$  and  $T = \text{SO}_2\text{NH}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}$ ,  $\text{O}$ ,  $\text{S}$ ,  $\text{NH}$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{SO}_2\text{R})$  wherein  $\text{R}$  is as defined above, then  $T_C = (\text{CO})$  or  $-(\text{CH}_2)_{n6}\text{O}(\text{CO})-$ ;

when  $b_0 = 0$ ,  $c_0 = 1$  and  $T = \text{CO}$  then  $T_C = \text{X}$  wherein  $\text{X}$  is as defined above;

when  $b_0 = 1$  and  $T = \text{SO}_2\text{NH}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}$ ,  $\text{O}$ ,  $\text{S}$ ,  $\text{NH}$ ,  $\text{N}(\text{SO}_2\text{R})$  wherein  $\text{R}$  is as defined above, then  $T_B = \text{CO}$ ;

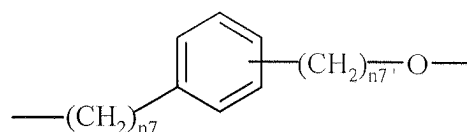
when  $b_0 = 1$  and  $T = \text{CO}$  then  $T_B = \text{X}$  wherein  $\text{X}$  is as defined above;

when  $b_0 = 1$ ,  $c_0 = 1$  and  $T_{B1} = \text{CO}$  then  $T_C = \text{X}$  wherein  $\text{X}$  is as above defined;

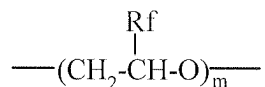
when  $b_0 = 1$ ,  $c_0 = 1$  and  $T_{B1} = \text{X}$ , wherein  $\text{X}$  is as above defined, then  $T_C = (\text{CO})$ ;

when  $b_0 = 1$ ,  $c_0 = 0$  the  $T_{B1}$  has only the meaning of  $-\text{O}-$ .

Claim 2. (Original) A compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 wherein  $b_0 = 0$ ,  $c_0 = 1$ ,  $T$  and  $T_C$  are as defined in claim 1,  $Y$  is a straight  $\text{C}_1$ - $\text{C}_6$  alkylene or



wherein n7 is 0 or 1, and n7' is 1 or 2, or



wherein m is 2, Rf is hydrogen.

Claim 3. (Canceled)

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) according to claim 2 wherein b0 = 0, c0 = 1, T = -SO<sub>2</sub>NH- and T<sub>c</sub> = CO or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n6</sub>O(CO)- wherein n6 = 1.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Canceled)

Claim 7. (Canceled)

Claim 8. (Canceled)

Claim 9. (Original) A compound according to claim 4, that is N-[4-[5-(4-methylphenyl)-3-(trifluoromethyl)-1H-pyrazol-1-yl]phenylsulfonyl]-4-nitrooxybutanamide.

Claim 10. (Canceled)

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein said compound is a therapeutic agent.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment or prophylaxis of inflammatory disorders, pain, [[and]] fever and inflammatory disorders selected from the group consisting of: arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, dysmenhorrea, allergic rhinitis, sinusitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases, dermatitis,

psoriasis, cystic fibrosis, multiple sclerosis, vasculitis and organ transplant rejection, comprising administering to a subject a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

Claim 13. (Canceled)

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment or ~~prophylaxis~~ of cardiovascular diseases selected from the group consisting of: atherosclerosis, restenosis, coronary artery disease, angina, diabetes mellitus, diabetic nephropathy, diabetic retinopathy, stroke and myocardic infarct, comprising administering to a subject a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

Claim 15. (Canceled)

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment or ~~prophylaxis~~ of gastrointestinal disorders selected from the group consisting of: inflammatory intestinal disorders, Crohn's disease, gastritis, ulcerative colitis, peptic ulcer, haemorrhagic ulcer, gastric hyperacidity, dyspepsia, gastroparesis, Zollinger-Ellison's syndrome, bacterial infections, hypersecretory states associated with systemic mastocytosis or basophilic leukaemia and hyperhystaminemia, comprising administering to a subject a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

Claim 17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment or ~~prophylaxis of tumors and of~~ Alzheimer's disease, comprising administering to a subject a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) A method of treating or ~~preventing~~ disorders resulting from elevated levels of COX-2 selected from the group consisting of: angiogenesis, arthritis, asthma, bronchitis, menstrual cramps, tendinitis, bursitis, neoplasia, ophthalmic diseases, pulmonary inflammations, central nervous system

disorders, allergic rhinitis, atherosclerosis, endothelial disorders, organs and tissues preservation, and inhibition or prevention of platelet aggregation, comprising administering to a subject a compound of formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

Claim 20. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically effective amount of a compound of general formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 1.

Claim 22. (Original) A composition according to claim 21 in a suitable form for the oral, parenteral, rectal, topic and transdermic administration, by inhalation spray or aerosol or iontophoresis devices.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) A liquid or solid pharmaceutical composition for oral, parenteral, rectal, topic and transdermic administration or inhalation in the form of tablets, capsules and pills optionally with enteric coating, powders, granules, gels, emulsions, solutions, suspensions, syrups, elixir, injectable forms, suppositories, in transdermal patches or liposomes, containing a compound of formula (I) according to claim 1 or a salt thereof and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.